

EMERITUS PROFESSOR A.D. TRENDALL

Side A only

- Member of Royal Commission of Enquiry into University of Tasmania.
Impressed by early C19 architecture of Hobart; and magnificent country houses. Stayed several weeks in 1955.
- 020 Opened John Elliott Classics Museum in 1977. "A splendid small university teaching collection, admirably arranged" - credit to Ron and Sally Hood.
- 030 Acquisition of material for the collection described. Professor Dunbabin only known by correspondence - knew nephew Tom Dunbabin - at British School in Athens in 1930s.
- 045 Other association with University as a member of the Universities Commission.
- 050 "Steady progress" of University over the years of association.
- 060 Views about a small university - "greatly in favour of university not growing too big". Between 3 and 5 thousand. Isolation not too significant - esp. with modern technology and easier travel facilities. Shortage of books in Tasmania is a problem.
- 095 Own first university was Dunedin NZ with a thousand students. Easy and close contact with staff more important than anything else.
- 105 Standards of entry to university seriously lower these days; and not so much incentive; not so much competition, and students accustomed to watching TV, not reading books.
- 125 The Royal Commission.
Tried to "save as much face as possible on both sides". If accepted as package by University, some of their troubles might not have occurred.
- 140+ Largely based on personalities; not primarily a power struggle: though perhaps the then Chancellor wished to play too active a role in the administration of the University.
- 160+ "The VC would have made a better Chancellor and the Chancellor a better VC" -
The Chancellor was the stronger - difficult for a man like that to take 2nd place.
T. sees C's role as "moderating chairman".

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180+ Recommendations of Royal C. "on the whole" accepted.
195 END.

NOTES

Professor Trendall - unwilling to be interviewed. Believed both sides in Royal Commission were "guilty of un wisdom" - likewise both sides in ORR case.

Said he would not talk about Royal Commission; I approached it very gingerly late in the interview.

Answered questions briefly, then mouth shut very firmly.

Trendall and Boxhardt two very formidable men - latter also talkative.

Trendall very gloomy indeed about future of world. Said he looked at it from a long perspective (4th century) - felt world moving inevitably towards totalitarianism of left or right.

A courteous, civilised, reserved scholar.